

The Tragedie of Hamlet

We will bestow our selues; read on this Booke,
That show of such an exercise may colour
Your lowlinesse; we are oft too blame in this,
Tis too much prou'd, that with deuotions visage
And pious action, we doe sugar ore
The Deuill himselfe.

King. O tis too true,
How smart a lash that speech doth giue my conscience?
The harlors cheeke beautied with plastring art,
Is not more vgly to the thing that helps it,
Then is my deed to my most painted word:
O heauy burthen:

Enter Hamlet.

Pol. I heare him comming, withdraw my Lord.

Ham. To be, or not to be, that is the question,
Whether tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The slings and arrowes of outrageous Fortune,
Or to take armes against a Sea of troubles,
And by opposing end them: To die to sleepe
No more: and by a sleepe, to say we end
The hart-ake, and the thousand naturall shocks
That flesh is heire to; tis a consummation
Deuoutly, to be wish't to die to sleepe,
To sleepe, perchance to dreame, I there's the rub,
For in that sleepe of death what dreames may come?
When we haue shuffled off this mortall coyle
Must giue vs pause, there's the respect
That makes calamity of so long life:
For who would beare the whips and scornes of time,
Th' oppressors wrong, the proud mans contumely,
The pangs of ~~office~~ and the Lawes delay,
The insolence of office, and the spurnes
That patient merit of th' vnworthy takes,
When himselfe might his *quietus* make
With a bare bodkin; who would fardels beare,
To grunt and sweate vnder a weary life?
But that the dread of something after death,
The vndiscouerd Countrie, from whose borne

*Dispirited
loue*

No

Prince of Denmarke.

No traeller returns, puzzels the will,
And makes vs rather beare those ils we haue,
Then flie to others that we know not of.
Thus conscience dooes make cowards,
And thus the natiue hiew of resolution
Is sickled ore with the pale cast of thought.
And Enterprizes of great pitch and moment,
VVith this regard their currents turne awry,
And loose the name of action. Soft you now,
The faire *Ophelia*, Nimph in thy Orizons
Be all my sins remembred.

Ophe. Good my Lord,
How dooes your honour for this many a day?

Ham. I humbly thanke you; well.

Ophe. My Lord I haue remembrances of yours
That I haue longed long to re-deliver,
I pray you now receiue them.

Ham. No, not I, I neuer gaue you ought.

Ophe. My honor'd Lord, you know right well you did,
And with them words of so sweet breath composd
As made these things more rich: their perfume lost,
Take these againe, for to the noble mind
Rich gifts wax poore when giuers proue vnkind,
There my Lord.

Ham. Ha, ha, are you honest.

Ophe. My Lord.

Ham. Are you faire?

Ophe. VVhat meanes your Lordship?

Ham. That if you be honest and faire, you should admit no
discourse to your beautie.

Ophe. Could beautie my Lord haue better commerce
Then with honesty?

Ham. I truly, for the power of beautie will sooner transforme
honestie from what it is to a Baud, then the force of honesty can
translate beautie in his likenesse, this was sometime a Paradoxe,
but now the time giues it prooffe, I did loue you once.

Ophe. Indeed my Lord you made me beleue so.

Ham. You should not haue beleeu'd me, for vertue cannot so
euacuate our old stock, but we shall sellish of it: I loued you not.

Ophe.